

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 8-11 are rejected. Claims 5 and 6 are allowed, and claim 7 is considered to be allowable. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claim 7, and have cancelled claim 7. Applicants also have amended claims 1-4 and 8-11 to depend from allowable amended claim 1. Finally, Applicants have added new claims 12-19, which depend from allowable claim 5 and comprise the limitations from claims 2-4 and 8-11. Thus, no new issues are raised and no additional search is required.

CLAIM REJECTION 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Quaintance (5,487,679). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7, and thus should now be allowable. Dependent claims 2, 3, 8, 9 and 11 would be allowable on the basis of their dependency from allowable independent claim 1. Claim 4 has been made dependent from claim 1.

CLAIM REJECTION 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quaintance (5,487,679) in view of Herman et al (5,100,348). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 10 would be allowable on the basis of its dependency from allowable independent claim 1.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 12-19 depend from allowable claim 5 and would be allowable based on their dependency from claim 5 and their incorporation of limitations that appeared in claims 2-4 and 8-11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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